

# Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • Spring 2002

## *IFMA Fire Protection Institute Offerings 2002*

### **Management Institute for Fire Marshals**

April 2–3, 2002  
Auburn Hills, MI

The International Fire Marshals Association Fire Protection Institute is offering the Management Institute for Fire Marshals course on April 2–3, 2002. The Management Institute for Fire Marshals course is open to all individuals interested in furthering their basic knowledge and understanding of managing a fire prevention program. Who should attend? Fire prevention personnel interested in advancing their career, fire marshals, and others interested in becoming managers. The two-day course includes two sessions, which address the following topics.

#### **Strategic Planning for Fire Prevention Programs**

Major points of this presentation include:

- Developing mission statements, goals, and values
- Determining current situation status and mapping out a plan for the future
- Creating the essential ingredients of a strategic plan
- Managing participant input to obtain a commitment to the final plan

#### **Evaluation of Fire Prevention Programs**

This presentation will address:

- Communicating with the public on the progress of the strategic plan
- Developing work load indicators and measurements of effectiveness and efficiency
- Constructing annual organizational performance reports
- Transmitting evaluation and audit report results to policy makers and managers

The course fee is \$125. Participants are responsible for their own travel, meals, and lodging expenses.

Participants are responsible for their own travel, meals, and lodging expenses. There are no refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date. IFMA and SFPE reserve the right to cancel courses due to limited registration.

### **Principles of Fire Protection Engineering**

June 10–13, 2002  
Auburn Hills, MI

September 16–19, 2002  
Baltimore, MD

The International Fire Marshals Association and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers are offering the Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course on June 10–13 and September 16–19, 2002.

The Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course is open to all individuals interested in gaining or refreshing their basic to intermediate knowledge of the principles of fire protection engineering. Who should attend? Individuals that have design, enforcement, or advisory responsibilities; fire protection engineers; architects; fire prevention personnel; and others concerned with fire protection. The course will be offered in three options to allow greater flexibility in meeting your educational needs:

1. Four-day option covers all ten subjects.
2. Session 1 two-day option covers subjects 1–5.
3. Session 2 two-day option covers subjects 6–10.

The Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course consists of ten sessions over a total period of four days. The sessions include the following engineering educational subject areas:

1. **Combustion and Ignition Phenomenon:** Theories of diffusion flame combustion, fire dynamics, suppression theory, and suppression agents.
2. **Fire Endurance Evaluation:** Review of the development and application of standard and innovative fire endurance test procedures for building assemblies including doors, windows, walls, floors, and ceilings.
3. **Construction and Structural Features:** Performance of basic construction materials in the fire environment. The fire compartment involvement process and the concept of designing building compartmentalization.

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**Delaware Valley Chapter**  
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## Fire Marshals Quarterly

(617) 984-7424 Fax (617) 984-7056  
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Co-Editor: Amy Sturtevant

We encourage you to send items of interest to:

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1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101  
Quincy, MA 02269-9101

# IFMA Fire Protection Institute Offerings 2002

*continued from cover*

Classes will be held at the location at the bottom of the form and will start at 8:30 a.m.

## IFMA Management Institute for Fire Marshals Registration Form (please print or type)

You can register now and we will bill you later (please include Purchase Order) ; or if you prefer you can send in the complete registration fee of \$125 (USD) with this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me and bill me later. Enclosed is a purchase order.

Purchase Order #: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for the \$125 registration fee.

Please make checks payable to Oakland Community College.

Charge the \$125 registration fee to my credit card.

MasterCard  Visa  American Express

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me in the **April 2-3, 2002, Auburn Hills, MI, Management Institute for Fire Marshals.**

Please send registration forms to:

James Shank, Program Coordinator

Oakland Community College

2900 Featherstone Road

Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2845

(248)232-4580 Fax (248)232-4095

Please send registration forms to the addresses listed. No refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date.

**4. Materials Applications:** Evaluation procedures for flame spread, smoke production, and toxicity of interior finish, floor coverings, and furnishings.

**5. Fire Protection Design Evaluation:** Procedures for the evaluation of fire safety. Smoke management systems design principles and evaluation techniques.

**6. Life Risk Analysis:** Human tenability limits. Human behavior variables in fire incidents including convergence clusters, social inhibition-facilitation, altruistic, and nonadaptive actions.

**7. Detection and Alarm Systems:** Review of the types of detectors and the laboratory evaluation test procedures. Reliability and installation design characteristics.

**8. Sprinkler System Developments:** Characteristics of design and approval of the various types of sprinklers and water mist nozzles with application implications.

**9. Design of Water Suppression Systems:** Design of sprinkler and water mist systems with review of standard procedures and innovative research applications.

**10. Egress and Exits:** Basic theoretical code concepts with examination of egress components and design variables.

The Principles of Fire Protection Engineering course has been approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). SFPE will award CEUs to all participants who successfully complete this course, at no additional cost.

Participants are responsible for their own travel, meals, and lodging expenses. There are no refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date. IFMA and SFPE reserve the right to cancel courses due to limited registration.

Classes will be held at the following locations. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel.

### June 10-13, 2002

Oakland Community College

Attn: James Shank, Program Coordinator

2900 Featherstone Road

Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2845

(248) 232-4580 Fax (248) 232-4095

All registrations for this course should be sent to this address.

### September 16-19, 2002

Mt. Washington Conference Center

5801 Smith Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21209

(410) 578-7674 or (800) 488-8734

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# IFMA Fire Protection Institute Offerings 2002

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All registrations for this course should be sent to SFPE 7315 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 1225, Bethesda, MD 20814. A room rate of \$116 (USD) + tax/day has been reserved for participants. You must advise the hotel you are a part of the SFPE educational group in order to secure the listed rates. The cut-off date for advanced reservations is August 16, 2002. Reservations received after the cut-off date subject to availability.

## IFMA/SFPE Principles of Fire Protection Engineering Registration Form (please print or type)

You can register now and we will bill you later (please include Purchase Order); or if you prefer you can send in the complete registration fee with this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me and bill me later. Enclosed is a purchase order.  
Purchase Order #: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for the registration fee.  
Please make checks payable to Oakland Community College for the June course and SFPE for the September course.

Charge the registration fee to my credit card.  
 MasterCard  Visa  American Express  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

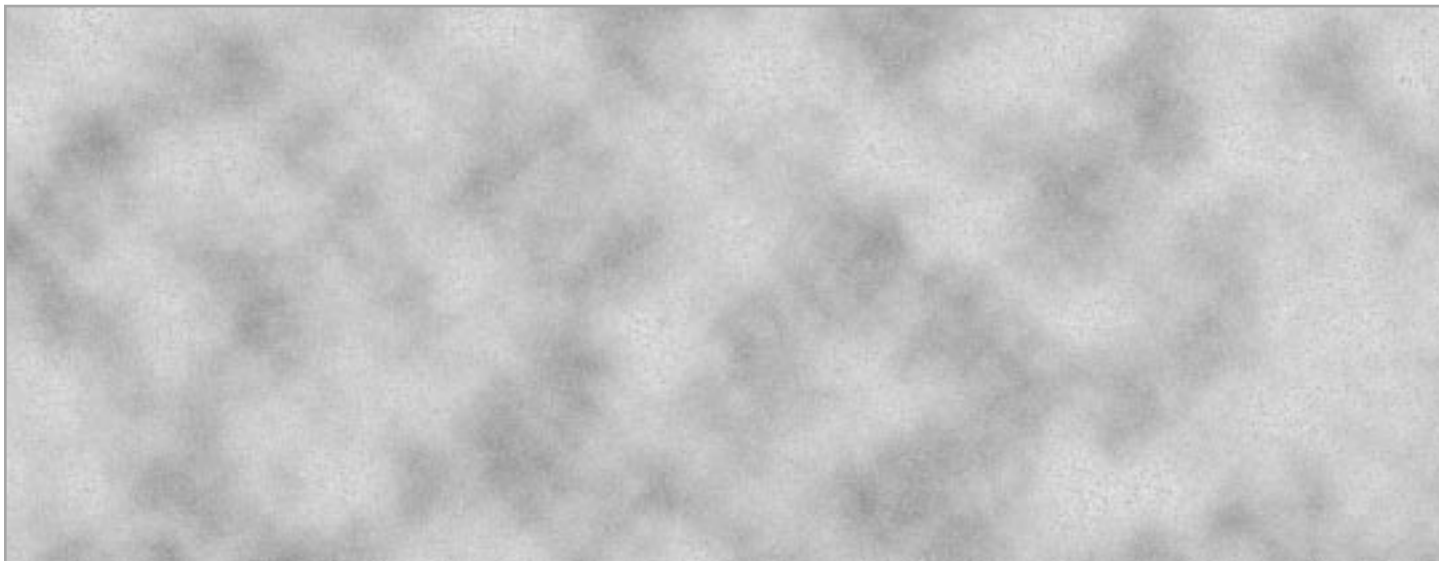
- Enforcer
- IFMA Member  NFPA Member – NFPA #: \_\_\_\_\_
- SFPE Member – SFPE #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me in the four-day option  June 10–13  September 16–19, 2002, registration fee of \$365 enforcers, \$440 member, \$540 nonmember.

Please enroll me in the Session 1 two-day option  June 10–11  September 16–17, 2002, registration fee of \$195 enforcers, \$245 member, \$345 nonmember.

Please enroll me in the Session 2 two-day option  June 12–13  September 18–19, 2002, registration fee of \$195 enforcers, \$245 member, \$345 nonmember.

Please send registration forms to the addresses listed. No refunds on cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled course date.



## “Team Up for Fire Safety” Is the Theme for Fire Prevention Week 2002

Building on the local successes of the 2001 Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign, NFPA has announced that “Team Up for Fire Safety” will be the theme for FPW 2002. The campaign puts the spotlight squarely on the fire service.

“We’ve heard many wonderful accounts of local FPW efforts that cleverly incorporated the baseball theme of last year’s FPW campaign,” said NFPA’s Vice President for Public Education Meri-K Appy. “In order to build on that momentum, we’ve selected a theme for 2002 that maintains the teamwork angle but lends itself to broader interpretation. We hope fire departments will join forces with a wide variety of local partners this coming October, including sports teams and other potential supporters.”

To aid fire departments in implementing their local campaign activities, NFPA is developing an improved online FPW community planning kit, which will be available this spring at no cost at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org), the official FPW Web site.

“Fire safety is everyone’s business, but every fire safety team starts with fire fighters and other first responders. The campaign guides children and families to the knowledge that their own actions are integral to their personal safety, and it focuses on key safety lessons everyone can learn,” said Appy. The campaign

emphasizes (1.) installing and testing smoke alarms, (2.) practicing home escape plans, and (3.) hunting for home hazards.

The kit will contain more of the kind of information previously provided in print versions, as well as many new materials. Everything will be fully downloadable and will be updated regularly. The kit will feature theme-related classroom activities and take-home materials, as well as a variety of articles and fact sheets that fire departments can personalize in order to showcase their programs locally.

Also new this year will be public service announcements and other graphic materials, as well as detailed communications tips, including a step-by-step media primer. Converting NFPA’s free FPW kit into an electronic kit enables NFPA to deliver more timely and comprehensive information than previously, Appy said. The electronic application also provides the fire service with a time-saving tool to maximize their exposure and impact locally.

“NFPA’s ultimate goal is to provide a one-stop resource for the first-responder community, from statistics to media support, to quality FPW tools, materials, and implementation strategies,” Appy concluded.

## Proposed Bylaw Change

As required in Article 10.1 of the IFMA bylaws, notice is hereby given on a proposed bylaw change. The Executive Board is proposing the following bylaw change. The change would bring the bylaws in line with changes in the master and the work plans. The proposed changes will be voted on at the Business Meeting to be held on May 21 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### Article 2. Purposes and Powers

This Association shall have the following purposes in support of its mission:

- (a) To unite for mutual benefit those officials engaged primarily in the prevention of fire, the investigation of fires, and/or public fire and life safety education.
- (b) To provide educational and professional development opportunities through technological, certification, and prevention programs.
- (c) To provide a resource service to the members of the International Fire Marshals Association.
- (d) To actively market and promote a positive, dynamic, and proactive profile for the International Fire Marshals Association.
- (e) To actively participate in the codes and standard-making process at the national, state, and local level.
- (f) To monitor fire safety issues at the national, state, and local level.
- (g) To develop mechanisms for Chapters to participate in the International Fire Marshals Association.
- (h) To monitor and support research and development of solutions to fire protection and fire prevention problems.

## Many “Thanks” from R. T. Leicht

On November 12th at the Opening Ceremony of NFPA’s Fall Conference in Dallas, Texas, I was genuinely surprised when Ron Farr, president of the International Fire Marshals Association presented me with the Meritorious Service Award. Since this is the first time that this award has been presented, I am naturally that much more proud. The trophy contains the following text:

*The International Fire Marshals Association  
bestows the Meritorious Service Award upon  
R. T. Leicht*

*In recognition of his notable and significant  
service to fire safety in keeping with the  
highest traditions of the International  
Fire Marshals Association.*

*Presented this  
12th day of November, 2001*

I really am not convinced that I had done anything extraordinary to deserve this but I wanted to accept the award as graciously as possible. Although I don’t remember my exact words, generally I accepted it “in behalf of all the members of the fire industry that I feel do a good job day in and day out and didn’t happen to have the opportunity to be awarded.” After all the ado, when I had an opportunity to reflect on my achievement, I realized how many other persons greatly affected the possibility of my attaining this award. I would like to take this moment to personally thank most of them now by mentioning them here. Needless to say, there are many others that will go unmentioned but my appreciation for their efforts aren’t any less.

First, to some of my high school teachers and college professors who were patient with my being stubborn. To John Gallagher, who by example encouraged me to return to college and to vigorously pursue my career dreams, whatever they be. To Lee Fulton, for giving me my first opportunity to perform Fire Marshal activities and supporting me, even during some rough times. To Bill Jenaway, who was the first to insist that I get active with the NFPA Code-making process. George Lewis who preached that, “fire prevention is best achieved by fire inspection.” He truly represented the concept of giving 110% to a cause. He also inspired me to get involved with the Delaware Valley Chapter of IFMA. To Rich Gallagher, for being a close friend and providing an informal avenue for

technical advice and coaching. To the last three State Fire Marshals in Delaware: Ben Roy for urging me to apply for employment in the State Fire Marshals Office, Dan Kiley for actually hiring me, and Bill Preston for his continued support of my work-related undertakings as well as the extracurricular activities. To my peers in the State Fire Marshals Office: Jack Rudd and John Rossiter who make the work environment enjoyable, yet productive and rewarding, as well as my special friend Mike Moran who reminds me to have fun and not take myself too seriously. Thanks to Jim Crawford, the Portland Fire Marshal, who in 1995 inspired me to get involved with the FMANA Executive Board and to John Bender (Maryland) and Ron Farr (Michigan), who make it a pleasure to be involved with the IFMA Executive Board. Special “thanks” to Steven Sawyer, the Executive Secretary of IFMA, without whose help, none of my completed IFMA projects would have been possible. And finally, to the many hardworking people in NFPA, both the membership and the staff, who have touched my life.

Finally, I feel compelled to assert that what is more rewarding then receiving this award is the feeling of accomplishment that is obtained when one works hard to see a needed project get completed. If I can motivate others to do anything, it would be to GET INVOLVED. Get involved with the local fire marshal chapter; they can use your support. Get involved with IFMA; they are always looking for help. Get involved with NFPA; the benefit far outweighs the time and effort.



*President Ronald R. Farr (right) presents  
R. T. “Whitey” Leicht with the IFMA  
Meritorious Service Award.*

## *NFPA Publishes Fire and Life Safety Book for Facility/Safety Managers*

### **Book features blueprint for workplace evacuation drills**

A new handbook, designed to provide facility managers and health/safety officers with hands-on fire and life safety information for the workplace, was recently published by NFPA.

*Introduction to Employee Fire and Life Safety* was prepared by leading experts from related fields and offers a special timely chapter on emergency evacuation drills in the workplace, also viewable in pdf format on NFPA's Web site, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

The comprehensive safety manual is the first resource to consolidate information for managers in fire protection, fire service, industrial safety, and human resources in order to maximize workplace safety. Requirements from NFPA's *Life Safety Code*®, used in all 50 states and adopted statewide in 36, serve as the basis for much of the evacuation information presented.

"By having a plan in place, we're protecting employees from fire and other emergencies, which is our number one goal," says

Jerry L. Ball, a retired risk engineer with Procter & Gamble Company, a former Cincinnati fire fighter, and author of the chapter on developing a preparedness plan. "This book provides not only the guidelines for setting up a preparedness plan, but also the information required to put the plan in action. Responding emergency teams will then be more effective in accomplishing their assigned tasks."

Each chapter starts with an actual incident report to set the stage for the information that follows. The book covers hazardous materials and hot work, fire extinguisher use, OSHA regulations, and case studies for successful fire and life safety education programs. Sample lesson plans are incorporated for use in the book, as is guidance on motivating management, employees, and the community on the importance of changing behaviors during emergencies.

## **IFMA Web Board**

IFMA has a Web board that has been in service for almost two years. This Web board permits you to post questions, comments, job opportunities, educational offerings, and other items that may be of interest to the fire prevention community. To register, please go the following Internet address and click on the Web board link [www.nfpa.org/MemberSections/IFMA/IFMA.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/MemberSections/IFMA/IFMA.asp). A feature in the Web board allows you to get e-mail notification when new messages are posted. Please visit and use the Web board.

## **IFMA Nominating Committee Report: 2002 Executive Board Election**

In accordance with Article 8 of the IFMA Bylaws, the report of the Nominating Committee was submitted to the Executive Secretary by the November 30 deadline. The Nominating Committee report will be acted upon by the IFMA membership at the IFMA Annual Business Meeting to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 21.

The Nominating Committee of Jim Crawford, chair; Ken Lauziere, member at large; and Margaret Sidwell, member at large hereby submits the following report to the IFMA members:

President, Ron R. Farr

First Vice President, John F. Bender

Second Vice President, Scott W. Adams

Secretary, Jon Nisja

Board Member, Charles "Ed" Altizer, term expires 5/04

Board Member, R. T. "Whitey" Leicht, term expires 5/04

Board Member, Don Goff, term expires 5/03 (serving out Scott Adams term)

## NFPA participates in special panels examining terrorist attacks

Two representatives from NFPA serve on international teams examining the September 11th collapse of the World Trade Center towers. **Robert E. Solomon, P.E.**, NFPA's chief building fire protection engineer, is a member of the special task force on the Future of Tall Buildings, formed by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH). **Robert F. Duval**, NFPA's senior fire investigator, serves on the FEMA-designated Building Performance Assessment Team (BPAT) for the World Trade Center.

Solomon's group is focusing on new strategies that may be considered in tall building design, including means of egress and performance-based design, in hopes of increasing the performance of tall buildings subjected to extreme events. Also of interest to the group are global changes for future building design, potential for enhanced use of vertical transportation systems, and the practicality of incorporating these measures. NFPA has been a member of CTBUH since 1997. CTBUH comprises the architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and fire protection engineering communities, as well as building profession constituents.

The BPAT team will examine building performance in the towers and surrounding buildings. Duval serves on BPAT's

support team collecting and organizing data related to several buildings located within the WTC complex. Other BPAT team members include parties from various structural and fire protection engineering groups, as well as from the concrete, steel, and masonry communities.

Solomon, a registered professional engineer, has worked for NFPA since 1986. He is a graduate from the University of Maryland, with a B.S. in fire protection engineering. He previously served as a fire protection engineer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Duval has been with NFPA for four years and previously served as a loss prevention specialist for Factory Mutual Engineering for 11 years. He graduated from Northeastern University, with a B.S. in mechanical engineering technology.

Since shortly after September 11, NFPA has been offering free online information to code officials and building managers interested in conducting evacuation drills at work. NFPA has posted five key model consensus documents targeted to first responders who are called to biohazardous events, free in pdf format, at [www.nfpa.org/Codes/CodesandStandards/Offer/Offer.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/CodesandStandards/Offer/Offer.asp). NFPA is also offering building emergency evacuation/relocation workshops throughout the United States.

### Coming Events

#### February

##### *Northcentral*

26-27 Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Cleveland, OH

#### March

8-10 IFMA Executive Board Meeting, Emmistburg, MD

##### *Northeastern*

14-15 Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Baltimore, MD

##### *Southern*

19-20 Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Birmingham, AL

##### *Western*

26-27 Regional Fire Code Development Committee, Orange County, CA

#### April

14 Emergency Service Organization Risk Management, Indianapolis, IN

18-19 NFPA Standards Council, Charleston, SC

#### May

19-23 NFPA World Safety Congress and Exposition, Minneapolis, MN

#### June

2-8 **NFPA Committee Week, Baltimore, MD**

2-6 Fire Prevention Code

5-7 Water Mist Fire Suppression Systems

12 Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Fuel Gas Alarm Systems and Equipment, Erlanger, KY

## NFPA urges replacing home smoke alarms after ten years

Replacing batteries in home smoke alarms will be a common ritual for many people as daylight savings time ends. But if smoke alarms in your home are more than ten years old, NFPA recommends replacing them as well.

Why? According to NFPA, aging smoke alarms don't operate as efficiently and often are the source for nuisance alarms. Older smoke alarms are estimated to have a 30% probability of failure within the first ten years. Newer smoke alarms do better, but should be replaced after ten years. Unless you know that the smoke alarms are new, replacing them when moving into a new residence is also recommended by NFPA.

Smoke alarms, when properly installed, give an early audible warning needed to safely escape from fire. That's critical because 85% of all fire deaths occur in the home, and the majority occur at night when most people are sleeping. Last year, NFPA documented 3,420 home fire deaths.

As of 1997, 94% of U.S. homes had at least one smoke alarm, according to NFPA, but as of 1998, 40% of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments and 52% of home fire deaths still occurred in the small share of homes with no smoke alarms. Half of the deaths from fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms resulted from fires in which the smoke alarm did not sound—usually when batteries were dead, disconnected, or missing.

“Simple steps like maintaining smoke alarms and replacing older ones help diminish the possibility of fire deaths in the

home,” says John R. Hall, Jr., NFPA's assistant vice president for fire analysis and research. “Smoke alarms in the home are largely responsible for the decreasing number of home fire deaths over the last decades.”

NFPA offers the following smoke alarm safety tips:

- Install new batteries in all alarms once a year or when the alarm chirps to warn that the battery is dying.
- Test units at least monthly. Test the units using the test button or an approved smoke substitute.
- Clean the units, in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
- Do not use an open-flame device for testing because of the danger the flame poses.
- Smoke alarms should be placed outside each sleeping area and on each level of the home, including the basement.
- In new homes, smoke alarms are required in all sleeping rooms, according to the *National Fire Alarm Code*.
- Alarms should be mounted on the wall 4–12 inches from the ceiling; ceiling-mounted alarms should be positioned 4 inches away from the nearest wall. On a vaulted ceiling, be sure to mount the alarm at the highest point of the ceiling.

For free information on smoke alarms, please visit NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## Los Angeles City Fire Department Sponsors Ethylene Safety Seminar

On November 29, 2001 the Los Angeles Fire Department in cooperation with the University of California–Davis Cooperative Education Program presented an “Ethylene Safety Seminar” to over 80 people who are involved in manufacturing, using, and regulating the use of ethylene gas used in fruit ripening. Fire Marshal Jimmy Hill introduced a distinguished panel of experts who presented both the hows and the whys of using ethylene safely.

The seminar was a direct result of a tragic ethylene explosion at a banana ripening facility in Los Angeles, which killed one worker and seriously injured another. The facility was also destroyed in the fire that followed the explosion. As part of an agreement reached with the business owners, the City Attorney and CALOSHA funds were provided to the LAFD to present the seminar in an unusual outreach educational effort. The seminar was very well received by all participants and should help prevent any such tragic events in the future.

## Call for Members

The **Committee on Chimneys, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing Appliances** is seeking members in the following categories: installer/maintainer, enforcer, and consumer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 97, *Standard Glossary of Terms Relating to Chimneys, Vents, and Heat-Producing Appliances*, and NFPA 211, *Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances*.

The **Committee on Emergency Service Organization Risk Management** is seeking members in all interest categories. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 1201, *Standard for Developing Fire Protection Services for the Public*, and NFPA 1250, *Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management*.

The **Committee on Fine Aerosol Extinguishing Technology** is seeking members in all interest categories.

The **Committee on Fire Protection for Nuclear Facilities** is seeking members in all interest categories except special expert or user. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 801, *Standard for Fire Protection for Facilities Handling Radioactive Materials*; NFPA 804, *Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*; and NFPA 805, *Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants*.

The **Committee on Fire Service Training** is seeking members in the interest categories of user, special expert, and enforcer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 13E, *Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems*; NFPA 1401, *Recommended Practice for Fire Service Training Reports and Records*; NFPA 1402, *Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers*; NFPA 1403, *Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions*; NFPA 1404, *Standard for a Fire Department Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Program*; NFPA 1405, *Guide for Land-Based Fire Fighters Who Respond to Marine Vessel Fires*; NFPA 1410, *Standard on*

*Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations*; NFPA 1451, *Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Training Program*; and NFPA 1452, *Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Dwelling Fire Safety Surveys*.

The **Committee on Garages and Parking Structures** is seeking members in all interest categories except manufacturers and users. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 88A, *Standard for Parking Structures*.

The **Committee on Internal Combustion Engines** is seeking members in all categories except manufacturing. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 37, *Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines*.

The **Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings** is seeking members in the interest categories of enforcing authority and insurer. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 35, *Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings*.

The **Committee on Solvent Extraction Plants** is seeking members in the interest categories of equipment manufacturer, insurer, and enforcing authority. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 36, *Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants*.

The **Committee on Water Spray Fixed Systems** is seeking members in the enforcer interest category. This Committee is responsible for NFPA 15, *Standard for Water Spray Fixed Systems for Fire Protection*.

Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees or on any NFPA technical committee can download a copy from NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org/Codes/TechnicalCommittees.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/TechnicalCommittees.asp) or should request a technical committee application form from:

Codes and Standards Administration  
NFPA  
1 Batterymarch Park  
P.O. Box 9101  
Quincy, MA 02269-9101

## Committees Soliciting Proposals

The committees for the following documents are planning to begin preparation of their respective reports. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects, committees are now accepting proposals for recommendations on content for the documents listed below. Proposals received by 5:00 p.m. EDST on the closing date indicated will be acted on by the committee, and that action will be published in the committee's report. Proposals must be submitted to Codes and Standards Administration on proposal forms available in the back of all NFPA documents or from NFPA headquarters. (NOTE: For information on specific committee meeting dates, contact Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA.) Copies of **new document (P\*)** drafts are available from Codes and Standards Administration, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org/Codes/Drafts.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/Drafts.asp). If you need a current edition of a document, please contact NFPA, Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322, or call (800)-344-3555.

Document No./ Edition	Title	Proposal Closing Date	Meeting Reporting
NFPA 70–2002	<i>National Electrical Code®</i>	11/1/2002	A2004
NFPA 85–2001	<i>Boiler and Combustion Systems Hazards Code</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 92A–2000	<i>Recommended Practice for Smoke-Control Systems</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 92B–2000	<i>Guide for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Areas</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 120–1999	<i>Standard for Coal Preparation Plants</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 121–2001	<i>Standard on Fire Protection for Self-Propelled and Mobile Surface Mining Equipment</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 122–2000	<i>Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 123–1999	<i>Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Bituminous Coal Mines</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 221–2000	<i>Standard for Fire Walls and Fire Barrier Walls</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 251–1999	<i>Standard Methods of Tests of Fire Endurance of Building Construction and Materials</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 290–P*	<i>Standard Test Method for LP-Gas Containers</i>	12/28/2002	A2003
NFPA 409–2001	<i>Standard on Aircraft Hangars</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 497–1997	<i>Recommended Practice for the Classification of Flammable Liquids, Gases, or Vapors and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas</i>	6/27/2003	F2004
NFPA 499–1997	<i>Recommended Practice for the Classification of Combustible Dusts and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas</i>	6/27/2003	F2004
NFPA 551–P*	<i>Guide for the Evaluation of Fire Risk Assessments</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 701–1999	<i>Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 730–P*	<i>Premises Security Code</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 731–P*	<i>Installation of Premises Security Equipment</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 906–1998	<i>Guide for Fire Incident Field Notes</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 1201–2000	<i>Standard for Developing Fire Protection Services for the Public</i>	5/3/2002	F2003
NFPA 1250–2000	<i>Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management</i>	5/3/2002	F2003
NFPA 1600–2000	<i>Standard for Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 1670–1999	<i>Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents</i>	6/28/2002	F2003
NFPA 1710–2001	<i>Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 1720–2001	<i>Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments</i>	1/3/2003	A2004
NFPA 1925–1998	<i>Standard on Marine Fire Fighting Vessels</i>	6/28/2002	A2003
NFPA 1994–2001	<i>Standard on Protective Ensembles for Chemical/Biological Terrorism Incidents</i>	6/28/2002	F2003

P\* Proposed NEW drafts are available from NFPA Codes and Standards Administration, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101, or they may be downloaded from NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org/Codes/Drafts.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/Drafts.asp).

## USFA Is Working on Details for Larger FY02 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program

Funding for the FY02 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program has now been increased to a total of \$360 million.

“Given the \$3 billion in requests demonstrated by local fire departments in last year’s program, Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) are more committed than ever to proceed with this very necessary assistance to local fire departments who as first responders play such a critical role in America,” said R. David Paulison, United States Fire Administrator. “We are diligently planning the approach for the FY02 program.”

Even though final details are still being determined and will be announced in the next several weeks, it is already known that the application process will primarily be Internet based. While paper applications will continue to be accepted from those fire departments without Internet access, use of the Internet is highly recommend because of the guidance that is built into that electronic processing system. Also, applicants who utilize the “e-application” process will receive an automatic electronic confirmation that their application has been received once it is submitted.

Eligible activities continued from last year will be Firefighting Equipment, PPE, Training, Fire Prevention, Fitness/Wellness, and Vehicles. In addition, fire-based EMS will be added as an eligible project this year.

Although fire departments will be limited to submitting only one application this year, a new programmatic approach will allow applicants to request funding to address various complementary and activities in one of the four distinct functional

program areas. Those areas are Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety Programs, Fire Prevention Programs, Emergency Medical Services Programs, and a Firefighting Vehicles Program.

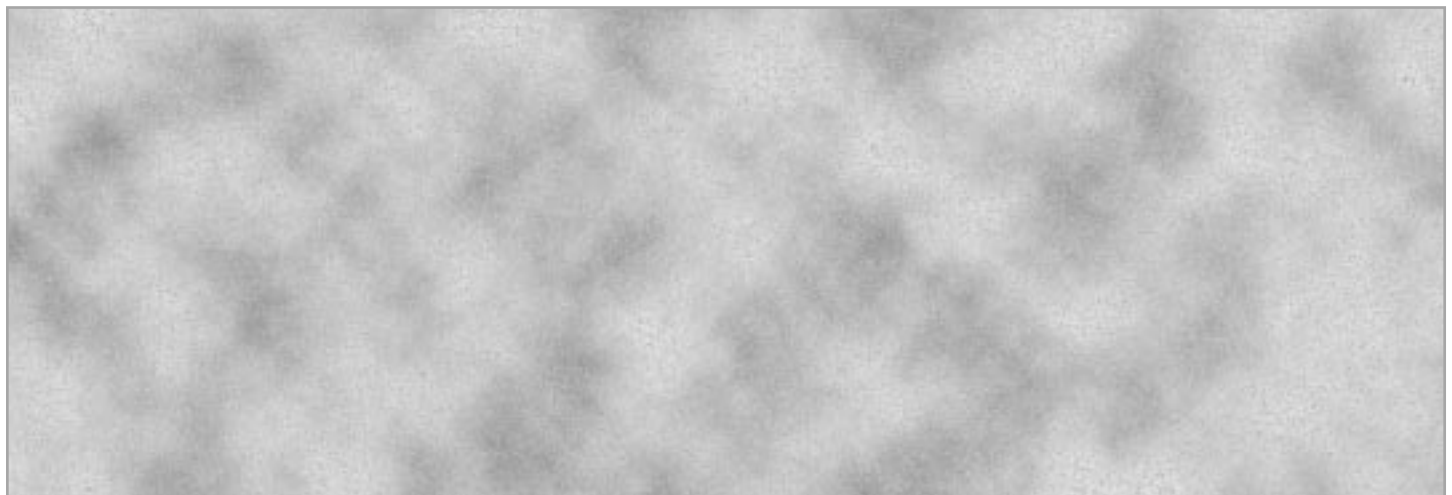
Fire service Peer Review Panels will also be a key part of the review process again this year. As such, FEMA will be accepting recommendations from the following organizations for individuals to serve on those Peer Review Panels:

Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI)  
International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)  
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)  
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)  
International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI)  
National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)  
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)  
North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD)

“Given the likelihood that the application process will open in early March, fire departments are encouraged to start gathering preliminary information for their application now,” said Paulison.

The best way to keep apprised of upcoming announcements about the FY02 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program is to enter your e-mail address at the “E-Mail List” link found at the top of the Fire Administration’s Web page at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

By doing so, you can be assured of receiving automatic e-mail notification of all new announcements, regarding application period, eligible activities, and other details of the FY02 program.



## UL Fire Alarm System Training

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) announces a series of complimentary training seminars for fire prevention personnel covering the basics of fire alarm systems.

Automatic detection of a fire, annunciation of an alarm to occupants, and summoning a response force are critical elements of fire protection. As technology advances and codes become more sophisticated, tremendous opportunities exist to improve fire safety in a community. However, in order to capitalize on that opportunity, a fire prevention professional needs to have an understanding about the technology and applicable codes.

UL is teaming with fire protection specialists across the country during 2002 to help deliver much needed training. For many decades, UL has Listed fire alarm equipment and administered a Certificate program for installed systems. Sharing the knowledge gained with other fire prevention professionals is part of UL's core safety mission.

The Basics of Fire Alarm Systems Seminar is designed to give participants a working understanding of the National Fire Alarm Code. Sessions are currently scheduled for 22 dates in 14 states. There is no charge for attending. Fire service representatives are encouraged to participate in these seminars to enhance their knowledge in this field.

Details on the seminars can be found at the following Internet address, which is updated periodically with additional seminar locations, [www.ul.com/alarmsystems/basics.htm](http://www.ul.com/alarmsystems/basics.htm). If you have any questions on the seminars or on how to sign up for a particular location, please contact Tom Presnak of UL at (847) 664-2651 or [thomas.e.presnak@us.ul.com](mailto:thomas.e.presnak@us.ul.com). Additional seminars can often be arranged if a seminar is not held in your area.

### The Seminar

This seminar will help the participant...

- (1) Be aware of the historical context of today's National Fire Alarm Code
- (2) Understand the fundamental requirements of NFPA 72 for system fundamentals, power supplies, signals, and circuits
- (3) Be able to interpret the requirements for and the use of the different types of initiating devices, including smoke, heat and flame detectors, waterflow switches, and manual fire alarm boxes
- (4) Be able to determine code compliance for notification appliances, including both audible and visible appliances, and how the ADA relates to the National Fire Code.
- (5) Differentiate between the different types of fire alarm systems
  - a. Household systems
  - b. Local fire alarm systems
  - c. Remote station systems
  - d. Proprietary station systems
  - e. Central Station Service
- (6) Be able to relate NFPA 72 to model fire codes

### The Instructors

**Art Black** is a 26-year veteran of the fire service and is the retired fire marshal for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (CA). He has been involved with the NFPA Fire Alarm Code process since 1990 and is currently Chairman of the Supervising Stations Chapter of NFPA 72.

Art is also active with three other NFPA technical committees, and is one of seven instructors for the NFPA Fire Alarm Seminar program.

**John Gudmundson** has been in the fire alarm industry since 1979, and has been with Underwriters Laboratories since 1985. John's duties at UL Santa Clara include performing listing investigations and audits of fire alarm companies and central station facilities throughout the western United States. John is a principal member of the Testing and Inspection Committee of NFPA 72, and holds NICET Level II Fire Alarm Certification.

*continued on back cover*

### Seminar Dates

April 2 – Redding, CA  
 April 3 – Santa Rosa, CA  
 April 4 – Burlingame, CA  
 May 8 – Dallas, TX  
 May 9 – Oklahoma City, OK  
 June 19 – Walnut Creek, CA  
 June 25 – Indianapolis, IN  
 June 26 – Columbus, OH  
 June 27 – Louisville, KY  
 July 16 – Seattle, WA  
 July 17 – Salt Lake City, UT  
 July 18 – Boise, ID  
 August 6 – Detroit, MI  
 August 7 – Grand Rapids, MI  
 August 8 – South Suburbs, Chicago, IL  
 August 22 – Santa Barbara, CA  
 October 15 – Kansas City, MO  
 October 16 – Springfield, MO  
 October 17 – St. Louis, MO  
 December 17 – Northbrook, IL  
 December 18 – Madison, WI  
 December 19 – Minneapolis, MN

## NFPA's Hydrogen Standards

Carl Rivkin, P.E., Senior Chemical Engineer, NFPA

As hydrogen use and applications increase, there is an increased need for affected parties to be aware of existing standards and participate in the development of new safety standards. NFPA is particularly concerned about getting input from and information to officials who would be involved in the review and approval of hydrogen projects. These projects could include hydrogen refueling stations or hydrogen storage facilities.

NFPA has three standards that directly address the use of hydrogen and has three projects underway to significantly expand the areas covered by the current standards. The three existing NFPA hydrogen standards are

1. NFPA 50A, *Standard for Gaseous Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites*, 1999 Edition
2. NFPA 50B, *Standard for Liquefied Hydrogen Systems at Consumer Sites*, 1999 Edition
3. NFPA 853, *Standard for the Installation of Stationary Fuel Cell Power Plants*, 2000 Edition

NFPA 50A and 50B give requirements for storage systems based on a cutoff capacity of 400 scf and 150 liters, respectively. NFPA 853 applies to the design, construction, and installation of stationary fuel cell power plants with a gross electrical generation that exceeds 50 kW. The three projects underway that will significantly expand coverage beyond these standards are a consolidation of NFPA 50A and 50B into a revised edition of NFPA 55, *Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders*, 1998 Edition, that will expand coverage from consumer sites to consumer and manufacturer sites; a revision of NFPA 853 that will address small residential fuel cells; and a complete revision of NFPA 52, *Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems Code*, 1998 Edition. The complete revision of NFPA 52 would consolidate NFPA 52 and NFPA 57, *Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Vehicular Fuel Systems Code*, 1999 Edition, and add requirements for the vehicular use of hydrogen. This revised document would be promulgated in 2005. The current editions of NFPA 52 and 57 will be reissued with minor revisions in 2002. Also, the 2002 edition of the *National Electric Code*® will contain requirements for fuels cells.

The Technical Committee on Vehicular Alternative Fuel Systems (VAF Committee) is responsible for the revision of

NFPA 52 that would cover hydrogen vehicle applications and because of the 2005 date the project is wide open for input. The committee would not formally request proposals until August of 2003, with a proposal closing date of January 2004, but I encourage interested parties to submit information or proposals to me at any time. Proposals can also be submitted directly into the NFPA Codes and Standards processing system through the NFPA Web site ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)). Soliciting and reviewing comments on proposals is the next stage in the NFPA document promulgation process after reviewing proposals and the comment review would take place later in 2004. The VAF Committee also has space for additional committee members and anyone interested in becoming a committee member can find an application on the NFPA Web site. The committee is very interested in getting the input of officials who would be involved in project review and approval, such projects might include hydrogen refueling stations.

The Technical Committee on Industrial and Medical Gases, responsible for the revision to NFPA 55, *Standard for the Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed and Liquefied Gases in Portable Cylinders*, 1998 Edition, will produce a draft document for public review and comment in February 2002. This document would also expand the scope of the current document beyond cylinder storage to cover storage in any type of container. This document will be available for downloading through the codes and standards portion of NFPA's Web site in February 2002. The invitation to apply for committee membership I mentioned earlier applies to the Industrial and Medical Gases Technical Committee; the Technical Committee on Electric Generating Plants, responsible for NFPA 853; and any other NFPA committee. A complete list of NFPA Technical Committees can be found on the NFPA Web site.

For additional information please contact:

Carl Rivkin, P.E.

NFPA

1 Batterymarch Park

Quincy, MA 02269

e-mail: [crivkin@nfpa.org](mailto:crivkin@nfpa.org)

voice: (617) 984-7418

fax: (617) 984-7110

Web site: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

## President's Corner



Ron Farr

Greetings to all and best wishes for a great year ahead. It is shortly after the first of the year as I write this message and I am sure all have had a very busy few months.

I would like to thank all those who attended the Third Fire Marshals Conference in Dallas, Texas (in conjunction with the NFPA Fall Meeting), this past November. I would also like to extend a big THANK YOU to the Florida and Michigan fire inspector associations (both IFMA Chapters) for co-hosting a very successful and well-attended reception during the Conference. In keeping with IFMA's goal of professional development, we sponsored several educational programs that were well received. A special thank you to our presenters as well as those who attended.

*Reminder...* If you know of a program that you think should be considered for presentation at the Fourth Fire Marshals Conference (November 2002) in Atlanta, Georgia, please contact Executive Secretary Steven Sawyer.

The IFMA Winter Board Meeting will be held the first part of March 2002 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. During this time we will be meeting with various members of the FEMA, USFA, and NFPA staff to discuss what we can do jointly to promote issues of importance to all parties.

On December 17, 2001, I had the honor and pleasure to represent IFMA at the swearing in ceremony of R. David Paulison as the new administrator of the USFA. The ceremony took place in the Washington, DC, Fire Station housing Engine Three. Welcoming comments were made by Congressman Curt Weldon and the Oath of Office was administered by Joe M. Allbaugh, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Those in attendance witnessed and heard Mr. Paulison demonstrate his commitment to the fire service. The International Fire Marshals Associations congratulates Mr. Paulison and stands ready to assist in any way we can.

I hope to see many of you at the May NFPA meeting in Minneapolis.

Take care and be safe.

## Executive Secretary's Report



Steven F. Sawyer

Welcome to a New Year and I hope every one had a safe New Year celebration.

I would like to announce that I have a new assistant, Amy Sturtevant. She can be reached at (617) 984-7467 or [asturtevant@nfpa.org](mailto:asturtevant@nfpa.org). She will be assisting me in the IFMA activities. Please welcome her to our staff.

IFMA is offering the Principles of Fire Protection Engineering Course in two locations and the Management Institute for Fire Marshals (see cover) this year. Thanks to those who are assisting us with sponsoring these courses. We are looking for sponsors for 2003, if you are interested please contact me.

At the NFPA World Safety Conference & Exposition we will hold our annual Chapter Presidents Meeting, in addition to our

usual educational offerings, business meeting, and codes and standards forum. This meeting will be a landmark event with the NFPA membership voting on the building code. I hope to see you all there.

I am asking for your help in submitting articles for the *Quarterly*. The *Quarterly* is your newsletter and I would like to provide the information the members are looking for. Submittal deadlines are Summer April 19, Fall July 19, and Winter October 11. If you have any article or suggestions, please let me know.

I would like to thank all those who volunteered to help Utah during the 2002 Winter Olympics. IFMA assisted them in finding volunteers to assist with inspection duties during the Olympics. I am sure those involved will have a report as soon as they return and warm up.

## Fire in 2000: The Big Picture

This information was compiled by Marty Ahrens of the Fire Analysis and Research Division. The source document was *Fire Loss in the United During 2000*. Please contact Nancy Schwartz in NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop at (617) 984-7450 or [osds@nfpa.org](mailto:osds@nfpa.org) to request a complimentary copy of the full fire loss report for 2000. This report is also available to download off NFPA's Web site under the One-Stop Data Shop.

### Reported fires hit a record low in 2000.

In 2000, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated 1,708,000 fires. These fires killed 4,045 civilians and caused 22,350 reported civilian fire injuries. Direct property damage was estimated at \$11.2 billion dollars. One hundred and two (102) fire fighters died while on duty. Table 1 compares the fire experience in 2000 to the problem seen one year earlier in 1999, ten years earlier in 1990, and 20 years earlier in 1980. Reported fires fell 48% from 3,264,000 in 1977 to a record low of 1,708,000 in 2000. From 1999 (1,823,000 fires) to 2000, reported fires fell 6%.

### Structure fires caused largest share of fire losses.

During 2000, the 505,500 structure fires accounted for 30% of the reported fires. These fires caused 3,535 civilian fire deaths, 19,600 civilian fire injuries, and \$8.5 billion in direct property damage. Structure fires accounted for 87% of the civilian fire deaths, 88% of the civilian fire injuries, and 83% of the direct property loss of known type. (Loss by specific property type was not available for the \$1 billion Cerro Grande [Los Alamos] New Mexico fire. The \$1 billion loss was excluded from the calculations.) Reported structure fires fell 54% from 1,098,000 in 1977 to 505,000 in 1999. From 1999 (523,000 structure fires) to 2000, they fell 3%. According to NFPA 901, *Uniform Coding for Fire Protection*, 1976 edition (the data classification system used by NFIRS), any fire in or on a structure is considered a structure fire, even if only the contents were involved and there was no structural damage.

### Home fires dominate the structure fire problem.

Seventy-five percent (379,500) of the 505,500 structure fires occurred in residential properties, including homes, hotels, motels, rooming houses, and dormitories; 73% (368,000) occurred in homes. (Homes include one- and two-family dwellings, apartments, and manufactured housing.) Home

fires fell 49% from the 723,500 reported in 1977. Home structure fires dropped 1% from the 371,000 reported in 1999.

Fifty-six percent (283,500) of all reported structure fires occurred in one- and two-family homes, and 17% (84,500) occurred in apartments.

### Four of every five fire deaths occurred in home structure fires.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of the 4,045 total civilian deaths occurred in home structure fires. Although only 17% of all reported fires occurred in one- and two-family structures, these fires caused 72% (2,920) of the fire deaths. Apartment fires accounted for 5% of all reported fires, but resulted in 12% (500) of the deaths.

### Fire deaths rebound from record lows of 1999 to 1997 and 1998 levels.

Total civilian fire deaths and home fire deaths specifically fell 45% and 42%, respectively, from 1977 to 2000. From 1999 to 2000, total civilian fire deaths rose 13% while home fire deaths rose 18%. Although any increase is disturbing, total fire deaths in 2000 were consistent with the totals fire deaths followed a generally downward trend since 1977. The graph shows that the lines for home fire deaths and overall fire deaths closely resemble one another.

### Vehicle fires are also a significant cause of fire deaths.

During 2000, the 348,500 reported vehicle fires caused 465 civilian deaths, 1,600 civilian injuries, and \$1.4 billion in direct property loss. These fires accounted for 20% of the reported fires, 11% of the civilian fire deaths, 7% of the civilian fire injuries, and 14% of the total direct property damage of known type. The 465 civilian fire deaths accounted for five times the 90 deaths reported in nonresidential structure fires and four times the 115 fire deaths occurring in any type of building other than a home. During 2000, 11% of all civilian fire deaths were in highway vehicles. Less than 1% occurred in nonhighway vehicles such as planes, trains, ships or boats, or construction equipment. Vehicle fires fell 31% from 508,000 in 1977. From 1999 to 2000, highway vehicle fires fell 6%, while nonhighway vehicle fires were unchanged. A detailed report describing vehicle fires categorized by mobile property type category may be ordered from NFPA's One-Stop Data Shop.

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**Half of the reported fires were considered “outside or other:”**

Fifty percent (854,000) of the 1,708,000 total reported fires were considered outside or other. These fires caused 45, or 1%, of the civilian deaths; 1,150, or 5%, of the civilian injuries; and \$315 million, or 3%, of the direct property damage of known type. These fires fell 8% from 1999 to 2000, but have fallen 48% from 1977 to 2000.

These outside and other fires include 68,500 outside fires involving property of value; 455,000 brush, grass, or wildland fires; 215,500 outside rubbish fires; and 115,000 other fires including outside spills or leaks with ensuing fires, explosions with no after-fire, and unclassified or unknown-type fires.

**Fire Department Activities**

**2000 was a record year for fire department calls.**

Municipal fire departments responded to 20,520,000 calls during 2000. This was the largest number of calls since the NFPA survey began collecting this data. Only 1,708,000, or 8%, were to fires; 12,251,000, or 60%, were to medical aid calls. From 1980 to 2000, medical aid responses and false alarms (including malicious reports and unwanted activations of automatic systems), and other calls, including hazardous material calls and other hazardous condition calls, all at least doubled; mutual aid responses tripled; and reported fire incidents fell 43%. (At least part of the increase seen in false alarms from 1986 to 1987 may be explained by a change in the wording of that particular question on the survey.) Information about hazardous material calls was first collected in 1986. Since then, these calls have increased 86%, from 171,500 in 1986 to

319,000 in 2000. Other hazardous condition calls increased 71% from 318,000 in 1986 to 543,500 in 2000. To put these numbers in perspective, the average frequency for different types of calls in 2000 is shown below.

**Total of false alarms and fire calls has not decreased.**

Although the decrease in fires is encouraging, the total of reported fires and false alarms has averaged about 3.6 million since 1980. Through most of the nineties, the total was above this average. In 1999, the combined total was at its highest point since 1980 and in 2000 was only slightly lower than in 1980. Fire departments cannot presume a call is a false alarm and must respond as they would to a fire.

The numbers and patterns of fire department calls are given each year in the complete report *Fire Loss in the United States*, by Michael J. Karter, Jr., which may be obtained from the One-Stop Data Shop in NFPA’s Fire Analysis and Research Division.

**Emergency response totals tell only part of the story.**

Although these statistics show that fire service responsibilities are growing and changing, they do not show the complete picture. Most fire prevention activities, such as inspections, plan review, and public fire education, are not captured in call counts. Training is generally ongoing to ensure that fire fighters can protect their communities as safely and efficiently as possible. Equipment must be checked regularly. Many time-consuming, essential activities are invisible to the general public.

Type of Call	Rate
All fire department calls	38.9 per minute (or 1 every 1.5 seconds)
Medical aid call	23.2 per minute (or 1 every 2.6 seconds)
Any fire call	3.2 per minute (or 1 every 18 seconds)
Structure fire call	1.0 per minute
False alarm call	4.0 per minute
Hazardous material call	0.6 per minute (or 1 every 1.7 minutes)

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**Fire in 2000: The Big Picture** *continued from previous page*

**Table 1. The U.S. Fire Problem—2000**

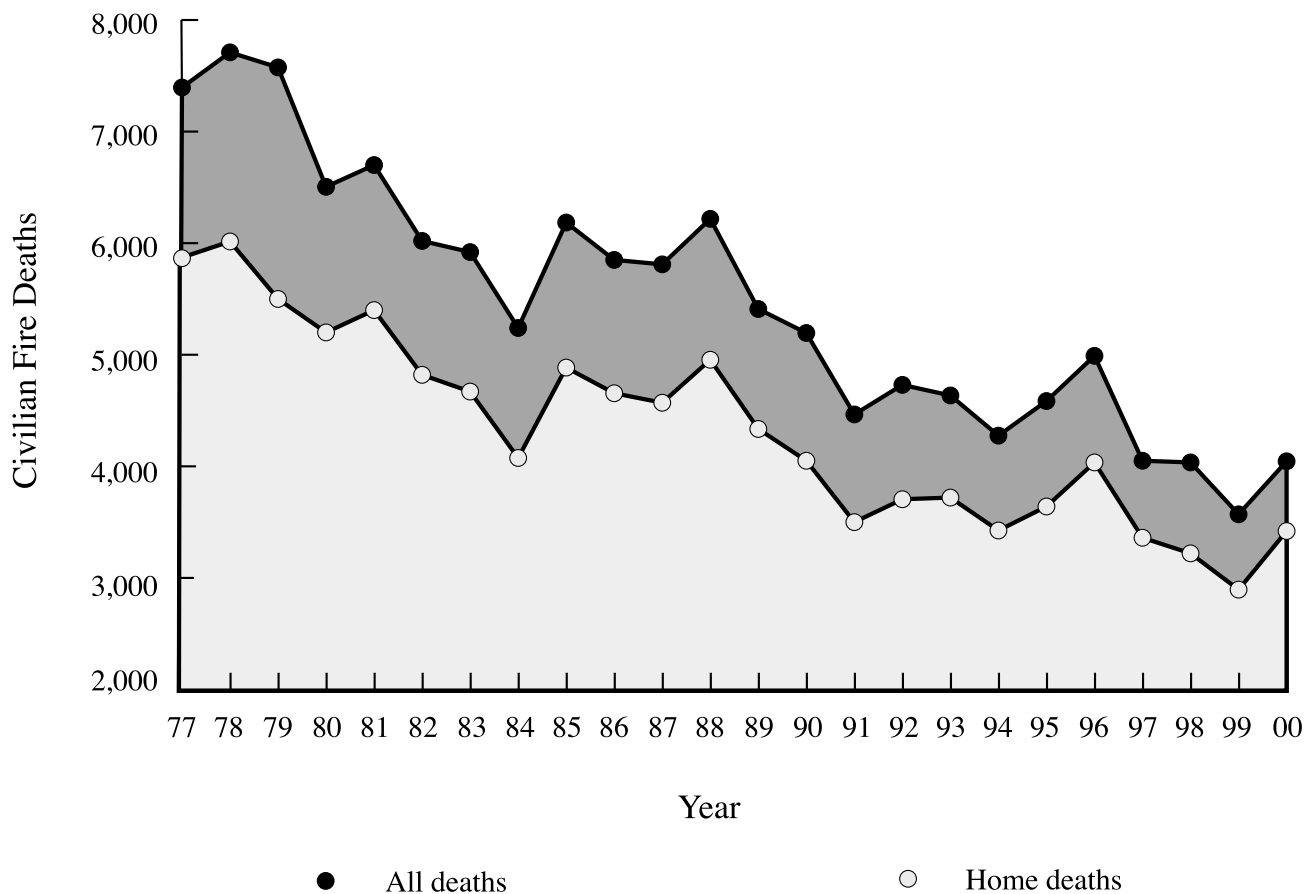
Reported to Fire Departments	2000	COMPARED TO		
		1999	1990	1980
Fire Incidents	1,708,000	Down 6%	Down 15%	Down 43%
Civilian Deaths	4,045	Up 13%	Down 22%	Down 38%
Fire Fighter Deaths	102	Down 9%	Down 5%	Down 26%
Civilian Injuries	22,35	Up 2%	Down 22%	Down 26%
Fire Fighter Injuries	84,550	Down 4%	Down 16%	Down 14%
Direct Property Damage	\$11,207,000,000	Up 12%	Up 43%	Up 79%
Adjusted for Inflation		Up 8%	Up 9%	Down 14%
Civilian Deaths per Thousand Fires	2.37	Up 21%	Down 8%	Up 9%
Civilian Deaths per Million Population	14.8	Up 11%	Down 29%	Down 48%
Property Damage per Fire	\$6,561	Up 19%	Up 69%	Up 213%
Adjusted for Inflation		Up 15%	Up 29%	Up 50%

Sources: *Fire Loss in the United States* (1980, 1990, 1999, and 2000), by Michael J. Karter, Jr.; Fire Incident Data Organization (FIDO); U.S. Census Bureau.

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**All Civilian Fire Deaths and Home Fire Deaths  
1977-2000**



Source: *Fire Loss in the United States*, by Michael J. Karter, Jr.

**UL Fire Alarm System Training** *continued from page 13*

**Tom Presnak** has been in the Fire Service since 1977; as a fire fighter/engineer for 12 years and with the Insurance Services Office for six years. Tom has been with UL Northbrook since 1985, his duties include performing investigations and audits of fire alarm companies throughout the central part of the United States. Tom is certified as a NICET Fire Alarm Level II technician.

**The Day's Schedule**

8:00 a.m.	Registration Continental Breakfast	12:00 noon	Lunch (provided)
8:30 a.m.	SEMINAR: Historical Perspectives Fundamentals Power Supplies Signals and Circuits Initiating Devices Elevator Recall/Shutdown	1:00 p.m.	SEMINAR: Notification Appliances Types of Systems Testing and Maintenance UL Certification
		4:00 p.m.	Q & A, Certificates



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